

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)**

**PROJECT FACT SHEET**

**SEPTEMBER 1996**

**HNC REVISION: 15 APRIL 1997**

**TAG REVIEW DATE: 6 MAY 1997**

**1. SITE NAME:** Holtville Target(BT)No.3

**SITE NUMBER:** J09CA017100

**LOCATION:**

City: Calipatria

County: Imperial

State: California

**PROJECT NUMBER:** J09CA017101

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 2

**ASR RAC:** 3

**TAG RAC:** 5

**2. POC's:**

**TECHNICAL MANAGER:**

Name: Robert V. Nore

Office: CEHNC-OE-DC

Phone: 205-895-1507

**GEO DISTRICT POC:**

Name: Trudy Knutson

Office: CESPL-PM

Phone: 213-452-3990

**GEO DIVISION POC:**

Name: Anthony L. Mei

Office: CESPDM-PM-R

Phone: 415-977-8247

**HEADQUARTERS POC:**

Name: Mohinder K. Saini

Office: CEMP-RF

Phone: 202-761-1594

**SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:**

Name: Rochelle R. Ross

Office: CELMS-PM-M

Phone: 314-331-8784

**ASR TAG REVIEW POC:**

Name: Thomas M. Meekma

Office: SIOAC-ESL

Phone: 815-273-8739

**3. SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Holtville Target(BT) No.3, acreage unknown, but assumed to be 640 acres, is located in Section 1, Township 12 South, Range 15 East, at coordinates of Latitude 33°09'00" North and Longitude 115°22'05" West, nine miles northeast of Calipatria, Imperial County, California.

Haley Road borders the northwest portion of the site and the Coachella Canal crosses the northeast corner of the site. The INPR states that the current landowners are John and Bertha Garabedia of Fresno, California.

The site is located in the Imperial Valley which has a desert climate and records a higher percentage of sunshine than any other place in the United States. Topography ranges from flat to gently rising terrain to the east. Located in the East Mesa area in the foothills of the Chocolate Mountains, the former Holtville Target #3 site has an elevation between a high of 260 feet above sea level and a low of about 10 feet below sea level. The site is located on vacant desert land that is sporadically covered with dense high scrub, grasses and trees. Heavy vegetation is located along the southern side and middle of the western side. The Mammoth Wash is the principle drainage for the site and drains southwest into the Coachella Canal and the East Highland Canal. The Coachella Canal flows south into the All American Canal which flows east and empties into the Colorado River which flows south and empties into the Gulf of California. Flooding at the site is unlikely because of the small amount of precipitation and the porous nature of the sandy soils throughout the Imperial Valley.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** The only reference to this site is from an inventory of Eleventh Naval District bombing ranges dated 24 August 1944. The document, entitled "Bombing Targets in Southern California Sector, Western Sea Frontier", provided a listing for "Holtville BT 3" located by longitude and latitude coordinates only. This document states that the target consisted of concentric circles and was approved for dive bombing using practice bombs. The document also stated that certain bombing targets had not yet been put into commission. It is assumed that the Navy acquired temporary use of one section of land. Research failed to uncover any property disposal information concerning this site, but it was probably returned to the Department of Interior soon after the war ended.

**There is a potential that the site was not located entirely in Section 1 of Township 12 South and Range 15 East. The coordinates provided for the site fall within the southwestern quarter of Section 1. Therefore, part of the target could have been in the adjacent sections.**

**5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Size, Acres:	640.00 (Acreage is unknown but is assumed based on target coordinates provided. Additionally, it is not known that all of the target area was
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	located in Section 1. Therefore, part of the target area could have been in the adjacent sections.)
Former Use:	Dive bombing target
Present Use:	Undeveloped private property
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	<b>None</b>
Type:	Not Applicable

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** The draft Archives Search Report for Holtville Target(BT)No.3 was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in September 1996.

**7. STRATEGY:** NOFA;(RAC 5)

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** Although the ASR and the initial HNC Safety comment both agreed on a strategy of EE/CA with a RAC 3, the TAG recommends a strategy of NOFA, RAC 5. An updated RAC Form with a score of 5 is attached. Rational is: (1)There is only one document that indicates that this site could have been associated with the use of ammunition, (2)The same document states that not all sites listed were commissioned for the listed use on 24 August 1944, (3)It follows that although this site was listed, it does not mean that it was used as a bomb target, (4)No document was located that the Navy actually leased or owned the site, (5)No disposition documents regarding the site were located, (6)There is no history of any problems with OE at the site, (7)The ASR site inspection team found no OE or remnants of OE on the site that are typically found at most targets, (8)Contractor personnel who completed the INPR stated that they found the remains of one rocket in the southwestern corner, which could be an anomaly which does not prove that the site was utilized as a FUDS site, (9)It seems contradictory that an EE/CA would be conducted at this site based on findings of the remains of one rocket and no bomb debris when it is documented for use as a practice bomb dive bombing target, (10)An aerial photograph, dated 1953, showed no evidence of OE presence or the concentric circles where the target was supposed to be located, and (11)The ASR author stated that based on research and the findings of this report, the entire site is most likely uncontaminated.

**HNC Safety Comment:** Comments were: (1)In paragraph 4.1.2 of the ASR Findings, the misleading reference to CWM has not been deleted, (2)All other comments have been superseded by the strategy of NOFA developed by the TAG. An updated RAC Form with a score of 5 is attached.

**Acreage and Location of the Site:** Acreage is unknown. It therefore follows that site boundaries are also not known. Acreage is assumed to be approximately one square mile, or 640

acres, based on other similar sites. Only the target coordinates are known. Since they are located in Section 1, Section 1 was determined to encompass the site. The coordinates provided for the site fall within the southwestern quarter of Section 1. Therefore, part of the target area could have been in the adjacent sections.

**Other Comments Regarding the ASR:** The one document found concerning the site indicates that it was designated as a dive bombing target for use with practice bombs.

**Natural Resources:** There are known Federally- and State-listed species which may occur within the site area. Listings are provided in the ASR Findings, page 3-6, paragraph 3.5. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

**Historical Resources:** No cultural or historical sites associated with this site are reported in the ASR. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

**9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** NOFA

**10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** NA NOFA